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APPLICATION NO.	FILING DATE	FIRST NAMED INVENTOR	ATTORNEY DOCKET NO.	CONFIRMATION NO.
09/534,309	03/23/2000	Yoshinori Ohta	4-165US-FF	9768

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EXAMINER

CAMPBELL, JOSHUA D

ART UNIT	PAPER NUMBER
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2178

DATE MAILED: 02/10/2004

Please find below and/or attached an Office communication concerning this application or proceeding.

Office Action Summary

Application No.

09/534,309

Applicant(s)

OHTA ET AL.

Examiner

Joshua D Campbell

Art Unit

2178

-- The MAILING DATE of this communication appears on the cover sheet with the correspondence address --

Period for Reply

A SHORTENED STATUTORY PERIOD FOR REPLY IS SET TO EXPIRE 3 MONTH(S) FROM THE MAILING DATE OF THIS COMMUNICATION.

- Extensions of time may be available under the provisions of 37 CFR 1.136(a). In no event, however, may a reply be timely filed after SIX (6) MONTHS from the mailing date of this communication.
- If the period for reply specified above is less than thirty (30) days, a reply within the statutory minimum of thirty (30) days will be considered timely.
- If NO period for reply is specified above, the maximum statutory period will apply and will expire SIX (6) MONTHS from the mailing date of this communication.
- Failure to reply within the set or extended period for reply will, by statute, cause the application to become ABANDONED (35 U.S.C. § 133). Any reply received by the Office later than three months after the mailing date of this communication, even if timely filed, may reduce any earned patent term adjustment. See 37 CFR 1.704(b).

Status

- 1) ☒ Responsive to communication(s) filed on 28 November 2003.
- 2a) ☒ This action is **FINAL**. 2b) ☐ This action is non-final.
- 3) ☐ Since this application is in condition for allowance except for formal matters, prosecution as to the merits is closed in accordance with the practice under *Ex parte Quayle*, 1935 C.D. 11, 453 O.G. 213.

Disposition of Claims

- 4) ☒ Claim(s) 1-6 is/are pending in the application.
- 4a) Of the above claim(s) _____ is/are withdrawn from consideration.
- 5) ☐ Claim(s) _____ is/are allowed.
- 6) ☒ Claim(s) 1-6 is/are rejected.
- 7) ☐ Claim(s) _____ is/are objected to.
- 8) ☐ Claim(s) _____ are subject to restriction and/or election requirement.

Application Papers

- 9) ☐ The specification is objected to by the Examiner.
- 10) ☒ The drawing(s) filed on 28 November 2003 is/are: a) ☒ accepted or b) ☐ objected to by the Examiner.
Applicant may not request that any objection to the drawing(s) be held in abeyance. See 37 CFR 1.85(a).
Replacement drawing sheet(s) including the correction is required if the drawing(s) is objected to. See 37 CFR 1.121(d).
- 11) ☐ The oath or declaration is objected to by the Examiner. Note the attached Office Action or form PTO-152.

Priority under 35 U.S.C. § 119

- 12) ☐ Acknowledgment is made of a claim for foreign priority under 35 U.S.C. § 119(a)-(d) or (f).
- a) ☐ All b) ☐ Some * c) ☐ None of:
1. ☐ Certified copies of the priority documents have been received.
2. ☐ Certified copies of the priority documents have been received in Application No. _____.
3. ☐ Copies of the certified copies of the priority documents have been received in this National Stage application from the International Bureau (PCT Rule 17.2(a)).

* See the attached detailed Office action for a list of the certified copies not received.

Attachment(s)

- 1) ☐ Notice of References Cited (PTO-892)
- 2) ☐ Notice of Draftsperson's Patent Drawing Review (PTO-948)
- 3) ☐ Information Disclosure Statement(s) (PTO-1449 or PTO/SB/08)
Paper No(s)/Mail Date _____
- 4) ☐ Interview Summary (PTO-413)
Paper No(s)/Mail Date. _____
- 5) ☐ Notice of Informal Patent Application (PTO-152)
- 6) ☐ Other: _____

DETAILED ACTION

1. This action is responsive to communications: Amendment filed on 11/28/2003, to the original application filed on 03/23/2000.
2. Claims 1-6 are pending in the case. Claims 1 and 6 are independent claims.

Specification

3. The objection to the abstract of the specification has been withdrawn in view of the amendment to the abstract.

Drawings

4. The drawings were received on 11/28/2003. These drawings are accepted.

Claim Rejections - 35 USC § 103

5. The following is a quotation of 35 U.S.C. 103(a) which forms the basis for all obviousness rejections set forth in this Office action:

(a) A patent may not be obtained though the invention is not identically disclosed or described as set forth in section 102 of this title, if the differences between the subject matter sought to be patented and the prior art are such that the subject matter as a whole would have been obvious at the time the invention was made to a person having ordinary skill in the art to which said subject matter pertains. Patentability shall not be negated by the manner in which the invention was made.

Claims 1 and 6 remain rejected under 35 U.S.C. 103(a) as being unpatentable over Vanderpool et al. (US Patent Number 5,781,773, issued on July 14, 1998).

6. **Regarding independent claims 1 and 6,** Vanderpool et al. discloses a system that displays searched items in a database (column 3, lines 21-24 of Vanderpool et al.).

Vanderpool et al. discloses two tables contained within a database, one of these tables (Figure 5, item 36) contains the full data items and user inputs including terms of search for the data items, while the other table (Figure 5, item 38) contains parts of the full data items that are to be displayed (Figure 5 and column 6, lines 34-44 of Vanderpool et al.). This database is accessed by using a computer implemented searching system which shows the results on a display apparatus (column 3, lines 21-24 of Vanderpool et al.). This system has the ability to access the databases and thus can be thought of as a read-out device for all elements and tables contained within the database.

Vanderpool et al. does not disclose a system in which the relational database uses three tables for the search and display system. However, the table driven database disclosed by Vanderpool et al. has the same functionality as the applicants' invention. There is no functional difference between one table that contains two delineated data types and two tables that contain only one type each. It would have been obvious to one of ordinary skill in the art at the time the invention was made to have used three tables in the database for the display system of Vanderpool et al. because the table disclosed by Vanderpool et al. which contains the full data items and the user inputs acts as a double-table.

Claims 2-5 remain rejected under 35 U.S.C. 103(a) as being unpatentable over Vanderpool et al. (US Patent Number 5,781,773, issued on July 14, 1998) as applied to claim 1 above, and further in view of Rowe et al. (US Patent Number 6,466,941, filed on April 21, 1998).

7. **Regarding dependent claims 2 and 4**, both of the claims 2 and 4 of the applicant's disclosure entail nothing more than the ability to edit data in a table in a relational database. Vanderpool et al. does not disclose the ability to edit items in the data tables of the database. However, Rowe et al. discloses a method of editing items in tables of a database. Editing abilities include adding, deleting, and modifying items contained within the tables of a relational database. One of ordinary skill in the art at the time the invention was made would have used the method of Rowe et al. applied into the system of Vanderpool et al. It would have been obvious to one of ordinary skill in the art because it would have allowed the user to interact with the database in a way that is common practice in the art.

8. **Regarding dependent claims 3 and 5**, both claims 3 and 5 of the applicant's disclosure entail nothing more than the ability to add data to a table in a relational database. Vanderpool et al. does not disclose the ability to add items in the data tables of the database. However, Rowe et al. discloses a method of editing items in tables of a database. Editing abilities include adding, deleting, and modifying items contained within the tables of a relational database. One of ordinary skill in the art at the time the invention was made would have used the method of Rowe et al. applied into the system of Vanderpool et al. It would have been obvious to one of ordinary skill in the art because it would have allowed the user to interact with the database in a way that is common practice in the art.

Response to Arguments

9. Applicant's arguments filed 11/28/2003 have been fully considered but they are not persuasive.

10. In response to applicant's argument page 9, paragraphs 4-7, regarding claims 1 and 6 that the references fail to show certain features of applicant's invention, it is noted that the features upon which applicant relies (i.e., "...with the three tables of the present invention, the item name of the item-name definition table can be changed independently of any change to both the display of search items on the HTML search page and to the contents of the general display table.") are not recited in the rejected claim(s). Although the claims are interpreted in light of the specification, limitations from the specification are not read into the claims. See *In re Van Geuns*, 988 F.2d 1181, 26 USPQ2d 1057 (Fed. Cir. 1993).

11. In response to applicant's argument that page 9, paragraphs 4-7, regarding claims 1 and 6 "...with the three tables of the present invention, the item name of the item-name definition table can be changed independently of any change to both the display of search items on the HTML search page and to the contents of the general display table", the fact that applicant has recognized another advantage which would flow naturally from following the suggestion of the prior art cannot be the basis for patentability when the differences would otherwise be obvious. See *Ex parte Obiaya*, 227 USPQ 58, 60 (Bd. Pat. App. & Inter. 1985).

12. Regarding applicants arguments on page 10, paragraphs 2-3, regarding claims 2-5, the arguments are based on the stipulation that the argument presented in regards

to claims 1 and 6 are persuasive. The obviousness rejections above are still used in view of the explanation presented regarding the arguments of claims 1 and 6.

Conclusion

13. **THIS ACTION IS MADE FINAL.** Applicant is reminded of the extension of time policy as set forth in 37 CFR 1.136(a).

A shortened statutory period for reply to this final action is set to expire THREE MONTHS from the mailing date of this action. In the event a first reply is filed within TWO MONTHS of the mailing date of this final action and the advisory action is not mailed until after the end of the THREE-MONTH shortened statutory period, then the shortened statutory period will expire on the date the advisory action is mailed, and any extension fee pursuant to 37 CFR 1.136(a) will be calculated from the mailing date of the advisory action. In no event, however, will the statutory period for reply expire later than SIX MONTHS from the mailing date of this final action.

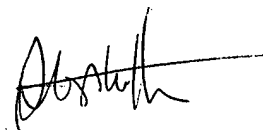
Any inquiry concerning this communication or earlier communications from the examiner should be directed to Joshua D Campbell whose telephone number is (703)305-5764. The examiner can normally be reached on M-F (8:00 AM - 4:30 PM).

If attempts to reach the examiner by telephone are unsuccessful, the examiner's supervisor, Heather Herndon can be reached on (703)308-5186. The fax phone number for the organization where this application or proceeding is assigned is 703-872-9306.

Art Unit: 2178

Information regarding the status of an application may be obtained from the Patent Application Information Retrieval (PAIR) system. Status information for published applications may be obtained from either Private PAIR or Public PAIR. Status information for unpublished applications is available through Private PAIR only. For more information about the PAIR system, see <http://pair-direct.uspto.gov>. Should you have questions on access to the Private PAIR system, contact the Electronic Business Center (EBC) at 866-217-9197 (toll-free).

JDC



STEPHEN S. H.
PRIMARY EXAMINER